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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DHA-02 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:FERONDON:JC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
----------162354Z 102735 /65
P 162107Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS STATE 140198

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES COMMENTS ON SAINT JEAN'S LETTER

REF: B.A. 4219 (NOTAL)

JUNE 14 NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES LETTER FROM ARGENTINE GENERAL SAINT JEAN TO NEWSPAPER, AS WELL AS LATTER'S EDITORIAL RESPONSE. TEXT OF BOTH FOLLOW:

QUOTE. ARGENTINA: 'ACCUSATIONS THAT LACK JUSTIFICATION'
TO THE EDITOR: IN AN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 25 ISSUE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES WORDS WERE PRINTED WHICH WERE SLANDEROUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO ME IN A LIBEL PUBLISHED IN EUROPE BY A GUERRILLA GROUP OF NORTORIOUS SUBVERSIVE MILITANCY ("ARGENTINA--THE PROCESS TO GENOCIDE," EDITORIAL ELLOS-QUEREJET;, MADRID 1977). THAT EDITORIAL ALSO ATTRIBUTED IDEAS AND AIMS TO ME, IN UTTER FALSENESS, PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES HARMFUL TO ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PUT
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A HALT TO ALLEGED FASCIST TRENDS.

AS THE GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES I AM IDENTIFIED WITH THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 24, 1976.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE TOTALITARIAN

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IDEOLOGIES WHICH DURING THE COURSE OF THIS CENTURY, HAVE PROMOTED THE DEGRADATION OF MAN, HIS DIGNITY AND FREEDOM. FASCISM, NATIONAL SOCIALISM, RACISM AND ALL OF THE FORMS OF GENOCIDE ARE AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE REPUBLICAN PHILOSOPHY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES AS THE VARIOUS FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

IT THUS TURNS OUT TO BE SURPRISING THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES EXPRESSES ACCUSATIONS THAT LACK ANY JUSTIFICATION; THAT HAVE NOT BEEN RAISED BY THE NUMEROUS CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS FOREIGN GROUPS AND CIVIC, ECONOMIC, LABOR OR SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS WHICH, UNDER THE PROTECTION OF EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, CARRY OUR PRAISEWORTHY ACTIVITIES OVER THE BROAD AREA OF THE TERRITORY OF THE PROVINCE.IN A GOVERNMENT OF OPEN DOORS SUCH AS OURS, A SIMPLE INQUIRY WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO LEARN THE TRUTH. IBERICO MANUEL SAINT JEAN, BRIGADIER GENERAL (RET.) LA PLATA, ARGENTINA, JUNE 6, 1977. UNQUOTE.

QUOTE. FROM THE EDITOR: THE WORDS ATTRIBUTED IN OUR EDITORIAL TO GENERAL SAINT JEAN CAME FROM A PUBLICATION THAT WE HAD REASON TO TRUST BUT WHICH IN THIS CASE HAS BEEN TARDY IN DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY UTTERED.

STILL UNABLE TO PINPOINT THE QUOTATION, WE CERTAINLY REGRET HAVING USED IT AND HEREWITH OFFER OUR APOLOGY TO THE GENERAL.

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THIS IN NO WAY RETRACTS OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE PRACTICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, AND OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ARE INCONSISTENT WITH HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM. THE PURPOSE OF OUR EDITORIAL WAS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE TWO; THE NATIONAL VIDELA GOVERNMENT, FOR ALL ITS FAULTS, APPEARS TO US PLAINLY MORE MODERATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MORE SOPHISTI-CATED ON OTHER ISSUES THAN THE GROUP OF HARD-LINE CHALLENGERS TO WHICH GENERAL SAINT JEAN BELONGS. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2121509
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW YORK TIMES COMMENTS ON SAINT JEAN\'S LETTER
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SHUM, AR, (SAINT JEAN, IBERICO)
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59ba7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009